

Historical houses - NAMED, A-L



THOMAS LOW 1833-4

D.A.M.



On April 29, 1833-4, Eden S. Sampson, a housewright, living on the west side of Washington St., sold a parcel of land behind his house to Thomas Low, also a housewright. Sampson's land ran from Washington St. to Blue Fish River, on the west, and when he made the sale he specified that an open way be left "free from gates and bars" to give access to his meadow along the river. This way was later to be called Chapel St.

Low built the house in the new style, with its gable end toward the lane. Inside, each room was finished in a different manner; the newest architectural styles used in the "best" front rooms and with the older methods of finishing, used by Low, in the rear.

The second owner of the house was Joshua Swift. He left his family's house at Millbrook at the age of 17 for New Bedford, where he served an apprenticeship at the harnessmaking trade. While there he met Caroline Kirby of Westport, and in 1844, returned with her to Duxbury, bought the Low house, added some land to his lot, and began his own business as a chaise trimmer, (carriage painter) and harnessmaker.

During the mid 1800s, Swift's neighborhood was a busy one, indicating the needs of the times. Union schoolhouse, which when outgrown became the Episcopal Chapel was built across the land to the South. Nelson Stetson, wheelwright, and James Vinal, ironsmith, shared a shop on the west. Swift on the next lot, had his own paint and harness shop. There it remained until he relocated his business by the Bluefish River bridge in the late 1800s.

Today the neighborhood is again quiet. The schoolhouse-chapel and shops have been converted to residences and the Thomas Low house, built 1833-4 is now the home of the John B. Nash family.

Polly Nash, researcher